

## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A multimedia messaging system, comprising:
    - a mailbox configured to receive and store one or more messages;
    - 5 a capacity calculator configured to determine the amount of space occupied by said one or more messages; and
    - a message transmittal unit configured to automatically enable one or more notification messages to be generated in response to said capacity calculator determining that the amount of space occupied by said one or
  - 10 messages exceeds a predetermined threshold.  
  2. The system of claim 1, wherein said capacity calculator is configured to count the number of messages stored in said mailbox.
  3. The system of claim 1, wherein said capacity calculator is configured to determine the amount of time said one or more messages
  - 15 occupy.  
  4. The system of claim 1, wherein said mailbox is located in a non-volatile memory device.
  5. The system of claim 4, wherein said capacity calculator is configured to determine the amount of non-volatile memory consumed by
  - 20 said one or more messages.  
  6. The system of claim 1, wherein said capacity calculator is configured to count the number of minutes said one or more messages.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein said non-volatile memory device includes a fixed disk drive.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein said non-volatile memory device includes flash memory.

5           9. The system of claim 1, wherein said notification messages  
include one or more facsimile messages.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein said notification messages include one or more telephone messages

11. The system of claim 1, wherein said notification messages  
10 include one or more pager notifications.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein said notification messages include one or more electronic mail messages.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein said notification messages include changing the cadence of a message waiting light on a telephone.

15 14. The system of claim 1, wherein said notification messages  
include modifying a telephone dial tone.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said modified telephone dial tone includes changing the frequency of the dial tone.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein said notification messages  
20 includes stuttering the telephone dial tone.

17. The system of claim 1, further including a user alert profile table to store information as to where said one or more notification messages are to be sent.

18. The system of claim 1, wherein said multimedia messaging system is an electronic mail system.

19. The system of claim 1, wherein said multimedia messaging system is a facsimile server.

20. The system of claim 1, wherein said multimedia messaging system is a voice mail system.

10           21. A multimedia messaging system, comprising:  
                a mailbox adapted to receive and store one or more messages;  
                a message transmittal unit responsive to said mailbox receiving said one or more marked messages to enable one or more notification messages to be generated; and  
15            a user alert table to store the one or more locations where said one or more notification message are to be sent.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein said one or more locations includes user contact information.

20           23. The system of claim 22 wherein said contact information includes one or more electronic mail addresses.

24. The system of claim 22 wherein said contact information includes one or more facsimile numbers.

25. The system of claim 22 wherein said contact information includes one or more voice telephone numbers.

26. The system of claim 22 wherein said contact information 5 includes one or more pager numbers.

27. In a multimedia messaging system, a method for generating notification messages, comprising:

receiving and storing one or more messages;  
determining the amount of space occupied by said one or more  
10 messages; and

automatically enabling one or more notification messages to be generated in response to said determining step determining that the amount of space occupied by said one or more messages exceeds a predetermined threshold.

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28. The method of claim 22, further including the step of storing one or more addresses where said one or more notification message are to be sent.

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